

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5285

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FROM AMBASSADOR FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR ENGLE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR BF

SUBJ: PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING, IPA: POLICE MANAGEMENT NARCOTICS
ORIENTATION NO. 7

REF: STATE 39551

1. I AM CONCERNED THAT EMBASSY'S NOMINATIONS FOR SUBJECT COURSE HAVE BEEN REJECTED REFTEL. THIS SITUATION HAS ARISEN BEFORE AND HAS CREATED SOME EMBARRASSMENT IN OUR OTHERWISE EXCELLENT DEALINGS WITH BAHAMIAN POLICE OFFICIALS.

2. IN AUGUST 1973, EMBASSY WAS ASKED TO FIND AT LEAST ONE BAHAMIAN CANDIDATE FOR SUBJECT COURSE SESSION HELD SEPTEMBER 10-NOVEMBER 16. EMBASSY HAD EXPLAINED PREVIOUSLY (NASSAU 1097, AUGUST 9, 1973) THAT IN A POLICE FORCE AS SMALL AND YOUNG AS THE BAHAMAS, LINES OF DIVISIONAL AND SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY WERE OFTEN NOT CLEAR-CUT. EMBASSY CONSULTED WITH TOP LEVEL POLICE OFFICIALS AND SUBMITTED NOMINATION OF SERGEANT ALFRED MOSS (NASSAU 1127, AUGUST 16, 1973). EMBASSY WAS INFORMED (STATE 179401, SEPT 10, 1973) THAT MOSS WAS NOT QUALIFIED FOR SUBJECT COURSE AND THAT NO OPENINGS WERE AVAILABLE FOR COURSES FOR WHICH HE WAS QUALIFIED. EMBASSY TRIED TO PASS THIS INFORMATION AS TACTFULLY AS POSSIBLE TO BAHAMIAN POLICE, BUT SOME EMBARRASSMENT WAS EVIDENT.

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3. IN VIEW ABOVE HISTORY, WHEN EMBASSY RECEIVED AIDTO CIRCULAR A-1212 ANNOUNCING SUBJECT COURSE SESSION BEGINNING MARCH 18, 1974, IT MADE VERY LOW KEY APPROACH TO LOCAL POLICE IN ORDER NOT TO AROUSE EXPECTATIONS. WHEN EMBASSY RECEIVED FOLLOW-UP PRIORITY TELEGRAM URGING THAT TWO CANDIDATES BE FOUND, EMBASSY RENEWED APPROACH AND RECEIVED NOMINATION OF TWO APPARENTLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATES, SERGEANTS JOHNSON AND STUBBS. REFTEL INDICATES THESE CANDIDATES TOO HAVE BEEN FOUND UNDERQUALIFIED.

4. BAHAMIAN POLICE FORCE IS SMALL AND UNDERSTAFFED. ITS LEADERSHIP UNTIL VERY RECENTLY WAS COMPOSED OF BRITISH EXPATRIATES. SITUATION NOW IS THAT EVEN RELATIVELY YOUNG, RELATIVELY LOW-RANKING BAHAMIAN OFFICERS ARE IN LINE FOR FAST PROMOTIONS AND, EVEN BEFORE SUCH PROMOTIONS ARE MADE, EXERCISE GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES THAN THEIR RANK MIGHT INDICATE. I HOPE THAT THESE CONSIDERATIONS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE REJECTING JOHNSON AND STUBBS. OUR RELATIONS WITH THE BAHAMIAN POLICE LEADERSHIP HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT AND I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO AVOID FURTHER EMBARRASSMENT IN INFORMING THAT LEADERSHIP ONCE AGAIN THAT HEIR CANDIDATES ARE NOT UP TO AID'S STANDARDS.

5. AGAINST ABOVE BACKGROUND, I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE CANDIDACY OF JOHNSON AND STUBBS AND FIND PLACES FOR THEM AT THE MARCH-MAY SESSION OF THE SUBJECT COURSE.

SPIERS

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